UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MAY 20 1988

CERTIFIED MAIL: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED (P 661 406 328)

REPLY TO: 6W-PI

Mr. Edward E. Kennedy
Director of Environmental Affairs
Homestake Mining Company
P.O. Box 98
Grants, New Mexico 87020

Re: Application to Discharge to Waters of the United States
Permit No. NM0020389

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Enclosed is the public notice of the Agency's final permit decision, a copy of our response to comments and the final permit. This public notice describes any substantial changes from the draft permit.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Permits Branch at the above address or telephone (214) 655-7180.

Sincerely yours,

Myron O. Knudson, P.E.
Director
Water Management Division (6W)

Enclosures

cc w/permit copy:
New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division

bcc: Humke (6W-PI)
Reading Files (6W-PS, 6W-P)

4/29/88:HUMKE(6W-PI):tn:T-83#7:#085

CONCURRENCES								
SYMBOL	6W-PI	6W-PI						
SURNAME	Huffman	Ferguson						
DATE								

EPA Form 1320-1 (12-70)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Advertising Order Number 8T-3202-NNLX
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region VI
Public Notice of Final Permit Decision

MAY 21, 1988

This is to give notice that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI, has made a final permit decision and will issue the following TWO (2) Proposed Permit(s) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The permit(s) will become effective 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. Any substantial changes from the Draft Permit are cited.

This issuance is based on a final staff review of the administrative record and comments received. A Response to Comments is available by writing to:

Ms. Ellen Caldwell
Permits Branch (6W-PS)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region VI
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
(214) 655-7190

Any person may request an Evidentiary Hearing on this final permit decision. However, the request must be submitted within 30 days from the date of this Notice. The request should be in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 124.74 (Federal Register Vol. 45, No. 98, Monday, May 19, 1980). The original public notice contains the stay provisions of a granted evidentiary hearing request.

Further information including the administrative record may be viewed at the above address between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

1. NPDES authorization to discharge to waters of the United States, Permit No. NM0020389.

The applicant's mailing address is: Homestake Mining Company
P.O. Box 98
Grants, New Mexico 87020

The discharge from this existing uranium mine is made into Arroyo del Puerto to San Mateo Creek in the Rio Grande Basin, a water of the United States classified for no designated uses. The discharge is located on that water in the Ambrosia Lake mining area, approximately 25 miles north of Grants, in McKinley County, New Mexico. Under the standard industrial classification (SIC) code 1094, the applicant's activities are the recovery of uranium from mine water by ion exchange.

There are substantial changes from the draft permit.

1. Biomonitoring requirements are deleted.

2. pH limitations are revised to within the range of 6.0 to 9.0 S.U.

3. Total molybdenum, total selenium, lead-210, polonium-210, barium and manganese monitoring and reporting requirements are retained as in the prior permit.

2. NPDES authorization to discharge to waters of the United States, Permit No. NM0022306.

The applicant's mailing address is: Molycorp, Inc.
Questa Division
P.O. Box 469
Questa, New Mexico 87556

The discharge from this molybdenum milling facility is made into the Red River, a water of the United States classified for coldwater fishing; fish culture; livestock and wildlife watering; and secondary contact recreation. The discharge is located on that water approximately one mile above the bridge at the Red River Fish Hatchery. Under the standard industrial classification (SIC) code 1061, the applicant's activities are mining and milling operations which produce molybdenum disulfide concentrations.

There are substantial changes from the draft permit.

1. For Outfall 002, from the effective date and lasting until mill start-up, effluent limitations for manganese and molybdenum are deleted, and monitoring and reporting only are required.

2. Biomonitoring requirements for combined Outfalls 001 and 002 are changed to 1/quarter.

3. A one-time biomonitoring requirement is established for Outfall 002.

This is our response to the comments received on the subject draft NPDES permit in accordance with our regulations.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
DRAFT NPDES PERMIT

Permit No.:	NM0020389
Permittee:	Homestake Mining Company
Facility Name/Location:	McKinley County, New Mexico
Draft Permit Public Notice Date:	March 26, 1988
Prepared by:	Fred Humke

Issue No. 1

NMEID suggests that pH limitations be revised to within the range of 6.0 to 9.0 S.U.

Response No. 1

EPA has made this change.

Issue No. 2

NMEID states that it does not wish to receive copies of all DMRs and all other reports required by Part III.D. and requests clarification of the language "if applicable".

Response No. 2

NMEID and the permittee should resolve what information, if any, to submit to NMEID.

Issue No. 3

NMEID wishes to continue monitoring and reporting requirements for total molybdenum, total selenium, lead-210, polonium-210, barium and manganese.

Response No. 3

These are reinstated in the permit.

Issue No. 4

The permittee questions the applicability of biomonitoring to this discharge.

Response No. 4

Under the present plans, EPA has deleted biomonitoring requirements for discharges to ephemeral streams with no known aquatic life uses.

Permit No. NM0020389

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, as amended, (33 U.S.C... 1251 et. seq; the "Act"),

Homestake Mining Company
P.O. Box 98
Grants, New Mexico 87020

is authorized to discharge from a facility located at Homestake Mining Company, McKinley County, New Mexico

to receiving waters named Arroyo del Puerto to San Mateo Creek in the Rio Grande Basin

in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in Parts I (5 pages), II (1 page), and III (6 pages) hereof.

This permit shall become effective on June 21, 1988

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, June 20, 1993

Signed and issued this 20th day of May 1988

Myron O. Knudson, P.E.
Director
Water Management Division (6W)

PART I
REQUIREMENTS FOR NPDES PERMITS

SECTION A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

OUTFALL 001

During the period beginning the effective date and lasting through the expiration date, the permittee is authorized to discharge from Outfall 001 - mine water.

Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations			
	Mass (lbs/day)		Other Units (Specify)	
	Daily Avg	Daily Max	Daily Avg	Daily Max
Flow (MGD)	N/A	N/A	(*1)	(*1)
Total Suspended Solids	N/A	N/A	20 mg/l	30 mg/l
Chemical Oxygen Demand	N/A	N/A	100 mg/l	200 mg/l
Radium 226 (dissolved)	N/A	N/A	3 pCi/l	10 pCi/l
Total Radium 226	N/A	N/A	10 pCi/l	30 pCi/l
Total Uranium	N/A	N/A	2.0 mg/l	4.0 mg/l
Total Zinc	N/A	N/A	0.5 mg/l	1.0 mg/l
Total Molybdenum	N/A	N/A	(*1) mg/l	(*1) mg/l
Total Selenium	N/A	N/A	(*1) mg/l	(*1) mg/l
Lead-210	N/A	N/A	(*1) mg/l	(*1) mg/l
Polonium-210	N/A	N/A	(*1) mg/l	(*1) mg/l
Barium	N/A	N/A	(*1) mg/l	(*1) mg/l
Manganese	N/A	N/A	(*1) mg/l	(*1) mg/l

Effluent Characteristic	Monitoring Requirements	
	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Flow (MGD)	Continuous	Record
Total Suspended Solids	1/week	24-hr. composite
Chemical Oxygen Demand	1/week	24-hr. composite
Radium 226 (dissolved)	1/week	24-hr. composite
Total Radium 226	1/week	24-hr. composite
Total Uranium	1/week	24-hr. composite
Total Zinc	1/week	24-hr. composite
Total Molybdenum	1/month	24-hr. composite
Total Selenium	1/month	24-hr. composite
Lead-210	1/60 days	24-hr. composite
Polonium-210	1/60 days	24-hr. composite
Barium	1/month	24-hr. composite
Manganese	1/month	24-hr. composite

OUTFALL 001

The pH shall not be less than 6.0 standard units nor greater than 9.0 standard units and shall be monitored 1/week by grab sample.

There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts.

Samples taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements specified above shall be taken at the following location(s): At the discharge pipe from the ion exchange plant.

Latitude: 35° 39' 20"
Longitude: 108° 30' 28"

FOOTNOTES

(*1) Report.

SECTION B. SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE

The permittee shall achieve compliance with the effluent limitations specified for discharges in accordance with the following schedule:

NONE

Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this permit shall be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date. Any reports of noncompliance shall include the cause of noncompliance, any remedial actions taken, and the probability of meeting the next scheduled requirement.

SECTION C. REPORTING OF MONITORING RESULTS

Monitoring results shall be reported in accordance with the provisions of Part III.D.4 of the permit. Monitoring results obtained during the previous month shall be summarized and reported on a Discharge Monitoring Report form postmarked no later than the 15th day of the month following the completed reporting period. The first report is due on July 15, 1988.

PART II
OTHER CONDITIONS

A. The term "24-hour composite sample" except for volatile organics means a sample consisting of a minimum of eight (8) grab samples of effluents collected at regular intervals over a normal operation day and combined proportional to flow, or a sample continuously collected proportional to flow over a normal operating day.

B. Test Procedures

a. The effluent characteristics "soluble radium 226" and "total radium 226" shall be measured by Method 706 "Radium 226 in Water" in accordance with the procedures discussed for soluble radium 226 and total radium 226 in Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 14th Edition, 1975, page 667, or an equivalent method.

b. The effluent characteristic "total uranium" shall be measured by the procedure discussed in the HASL Procedural Manual, edition by John H. Harley, HASL 300 Health and Safety Laboratory, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, 1973, page EU-03, or an equivalent method.